

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

1. (cancelled)

2. (previously presented) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, said vehicle frame further having a vehicle frame bore extending from the frame cavity, the apparatus comprising:

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement

longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle;

an actuator adapted for insertion into the vehicle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity; and

a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate opening when the adjustor member is in the frame cavity, said cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit a portion of one of the axle coupler and the first axle to extend through the cover piece opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

3. - 6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having

an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, said vehicle frame further having a vehicle frame bore extending from the frame cavity, the apparatus comprising:

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement

longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle; and

an actuator adapted for insertion into the vehicle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity,

wherein the vehicle frame bore extends longitudinally from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from the first axle and the second axle and wherein the actuator comprises an elongated threaded member, and

wherein the adjustor member has a threaded bore in register with the vehicle frame bore when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity and wherein the elongated threaded member is adapted to engage the adjustor member threaded bore.

8. - 10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, said vehicle frame further having a vehicle frame bore extending from the frame cavity, the apparatus comprising:

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle, wherein the axle coupler has a body and a coupler threaded extension and wherein the first axle has a threaded bore adapted to engage the coupler threaded extension;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement
longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing
surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in
engagement with the first axle;
an actuator adapted for insertion into the vehicle frame bore and adapted to move the
adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity; and
a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate
opening when the adjustor member is in the frame cavity, said cover piece
having a cover piece opening adapted to permit the coupler threaded extension
to extend through the cover piece opening when the coupler threaded
extension is in engagement with the first axle threaded bore;
~~wherein the axle coupler has a body and a threaded extension and wherein the first
axle has a threaded bore adapted to engage the threaded extension.~~

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the first axle has an end, wherein
the first axle threaded bore has an opening at the first axle end, wherein the cover piece has
an outer surface and an inner surface, and wherein the cover piece is further adapted to
permit at least a portion of the axle end to abut the outer surface of the cover piece and to
permit at least a portion of the axle coupler body to abut the inner surface of the cover piece
when the threaded extension is in engagement with the first axle threaded bore.

13. (previously presented) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a
vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having
an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion
defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion
defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, said vehicle frame further having a
vehicle frame bore extending from the frame cavity, the apparatus comprising:
an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;
an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement
longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing

surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle; and
an actuator adapted for insertion into the vehicle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity,
wherein the axle coupler comprises a nut and the first axle has external threads adapted to mate with the nut.

14. (original) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, said vehicle frame further having a vehicle frame bore extending longitudinally from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from the first axle and the second axle, the apparatus comprising:

- an axle coupler adapted for insertion through the vehicle frame distal opening and for engaging the first axle;
- an adjustor member adapted for insertion into the frame cavity through the proximate opening and for movement longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle, said adjustor member further having an adjustor member coupler adapted for alignment with the vehicle frame bore when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity;
- an actuator adapted for insertion into the vehicle frame bore and for engagement with the adjustor member coupler, said actuator being further adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity; and
- a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate opening and to secure the adjustor member in the frame cavity, said cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit a portion of one of the axle coupler and the first axle to extend through the cover piece opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the axle coupler has a proximate end adapted to engage the first axle and a distal end, and wherein the axle coupler distal end is disposed within the vehicle frame cavity when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein no portion of the axle coupler extends outside of the frame cavity through the vehicle frame distal opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the axle coupler has an elongated threaded member and the first axle has a threaded bore adapted to engage the elongated threaded member.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of screws adapted to secure the frame cover piece to the frame.

19. (original) An apparatus for positioning a first axle with respect to a cycle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said first axle having a generally cylindrically-shaped side wall and a generally planar axle end wall, said first axle further having an internally-threaded axle bore extending coaxially into the axle end wall, said cycle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity and disposed generally on the opposite side of the frame cavity as the proximate opening, said cycle frame having a cycle frame bore extending longitudinally from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from the first axle and the second axle, the apparatus comprising:

an axle bolt having a generally cylindrically-shaped body portion with a distal end wall and a proximate end wall, said axle bolt further having a threaded extension projecting from the proximate end wall and adapted to engage with

the axle bore, said body portion and threaded extension being further adapted for insertion through the cycle frame distal opening;

an adjustor member adapted for insertion into the frame cavity through the proximate opening and for movement longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a member opening adapted to surround at least a portion of the axle bolt body portion, said adjustor member further having a threaded adjustor bore adapted for alignment with the cycle frame bore when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity;

an adjustor bolt adapted for insertion through the cycle frame bore and for engagement with the adjustor bore; and

a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate opening and to secure the adjustor member in the frame cavity, said cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit the axle bolt threaded extension to extend through the cover piece opening for engagement with the axle bore;

wherein the axle bolt distal end wall is disposed within the frame cavity when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity, when the at least part of the axle bolt body portion is surrounded by the adjustor member opening, and when the axle bolt threaded extension is engaged with the axle bore.

20. - 22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A cycle frame for use with a first axle and a second axle, comprising:

a plurality of frame interior walls forming a frame cavity wherein one of said plurality of interior walls has a cycle frame bore extending from the frame cavity;

a frame inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity;

a frame outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity;

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle;

an actuator adapted for insertion into the cycle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity; and

a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate opening when the adjustor member is in the frame cavity, said cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit a portion of one of the axle coupler and the first axle to extend through the cover piece opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A cycle frame for use with a first axle and a second axle, comprising:

a plurality of frame interior walls forming a frame cavity wherein one of said plurality of interior walls has a cycle frame bore extending from the frame cavity;

a frame inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity;

a frame outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity;

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle; and

an actuator adapted for insertion into the cycle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity,

wherein the cycle frame bore extends longitudinally from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from the first axle and the second axle and wherein the actuator comprises an elongated threaded member, and

wherein the adjustor member has a threaded bore in register with the cycle frame bore when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity and wherein the elongated threaded member is adapted to engage the adjustor member threaded bore.

26. - 31. (cancelled)

32. (previously presented) A motorcycle comprising:

a first axle and a second axle;

a cycle frame;

a motor mounted on the cycle frame;

a plurality of frame interior walls forming a frame cavity wherein one of said plurality of interior walls has a cycle frame bore extending from the frame cavity;

a frame inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity;

a frame outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity;

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement

longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle;

an actuator adapted for insertion into the cycle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity; and

a frame cover piece adapted to cover at least a portion of the frame proximate opening when the adjustor member is in the frame cavity, said cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit a portion of one of the axle coupler and the first axle to extend through the cover piece opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) A motorcycle comprising:

a first axle and a second axle;

a cycle frame;

a motor mounted on the cycle frame;

a plurality of frame interior walls forming a frame cavity wherein one of said plurality of interior walls has a cycle frame bore extending from the frame cavity;

a frame inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity;

a frame outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity;

an axle coupler adapted for engaging the first axle;

an adjustor member adapted to fit in the frame cavity and for movement

longitudinally within the frame cavity, said adjustor member having a bearing surface adapted to engage the axle coupler when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle; and

an actuator adapted for insertion into the cycle frame bore and adapted to move the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity,

wherein the cycle frame bore extends longitudinally from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from the first axle and the second axle,

wherein the actuator comprises an elongated threaded member,

wherein the adjustor member has a threaded bore in register with the cycle frame bore when the adjustor member is disposed in the frame cavity and wherein the elongated threaded member is adapted to engage the adjustor member threaded bore.

35. - 40. (cancelled)

41. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle
coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;
engaging the first axle with the axle coupler; and
moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator,
wherein the step of inserting the adjustor member into the frame cavity further
comprises inserting the adjustor member into the frame cavity through the
proximate opening.

42. (cancelled)

43. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle
coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;
engaging the first axle with the axle coupler;
moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator,
wherein the vehicle frame further has a vehicle frame bore extending longitudinally
from the frame cavity through the frame in a direction generally away from
the first axle and the second axle, and wherein the actuator has an elongated
threaded member,

wherein the adjustor member has an adjustor member threaded bore adapted for
alignment with the vehicle frame bore when the adjustor member is in the
frame cavity, and
engaging the adjustor member threaded bore with the elongated threaded member.

44. (cancelled)

45. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

- inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
- inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;
- engaging the first axle with the axle coupler;
- moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator;
- and
- covering at least a portion of the frame proximate opening with a frame cover piece having a cover piece opening adapted to permit a portion of one of the axle coupler and the first axle to extend through the cover piece opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

46. (cancelled)

47. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

- inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
- inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;
- engaging the first axle with the axle coupler; and
- moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator, wherein the axle coupler has a proximate end and a distal end, wherein the first axle engages the axle coupler at the proximate end, and wherein the axle coupler

distal end is disposed within the frame cavity when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

48. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;
engaging the first axle with the axle coupler; and
moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator, wherein no portion of the axle coupler extends outside of the frame cavity through the frame distal opening when the axle coupler is in engagement with the first axle.

49. (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) A method of positioning a first axle with respect to a vehicle frame adapted for use with the first axle and a second axle, said vehicle frame having an inner wall portion, an outer wall portion and a frame cavity, said inner wall portion defining a proximate opening extending into the frame cavity, said outer wall portion defining a distal opening extending into the frame cavity, the method comprising:

inserting an adjustor member having a bearing surface into the frame cavity;
inserting an axle coupler into the frame cavity so that at least a part of the axle coupler engages the bearing surface of the adjustor member;

engaging the first axle with the axle coupler; and
moving the adjustor member longitudinally within the frame cavity with an actuator,
wherein the axle coupler includes an internally-threaded portion and the first axle has
external threads adapted to mate with the internally-threaded portion.

51. - 54. (cancelled)